

## 2018 Current Fiscal Year Report: Cooperative Studies Scientific Evaluation Committee

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### 1. Department or Agency

Department of Veterans Affairs

### 2. Fiscal Year

2018

### 3. Committee or Subcommittee

Cooperative Studies Scientific Evaluation Committee

### 3b. GSA Committee No.

2018

### 4. Is this New During Fiscal Year?

No

### 5. Current Charter

05/04/2016

### 6. Expected Renewal Date

05/04/2018

### 7. Expected Term Date

### 8a. Was Terminated During Fiscal Year?

No

### 8b. Specific Termination Authority

### 8c. Actual Term Date

### 9. Agency Recommendation for Next Fiscal Year

Continue

### 10a. Legislation Req to Terminate?

No

### 10b. Legislation Pending?

Not Applicable

### 11. Establishment Authority

Agency Authority

### 12. Specific Establishment Authority

38 USC 7303

### 13. Effective Date

05/09/1995

### 14. Committee Type

Continuing

### 14c. Presidential?

No

### 15. Description of Committee

Scientific Technical Program Advisory Board

### 16a. Total Number of Reports

No Reports for this Fiscal Year

### 17a. Open Meetings 0 17b. Closed Meetings 0 17c. Partially Closed Meetings 2 17d. Total Meetings 2

Purpose	Start	End
The Committee provides expert advice on VA cooperative studies, multi-site clinical research activities, and policies related to conducting and managing these efforts. Such advice is to ensure that new and ongoing activities are based on scientific merit, mission relevance, and quality, and are conducted efficiently, safely, and economically. To accomplish these objectives, the Committee reviews proposals and makes recommendations to the Chief Research and Development Officer on their funding and administration. The Committee does not consider grants, contracts, or other forms of extramural research for VA.	12/13/2017	12/13/2017
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### Number of Committee Meetings Listed: 2

	Current FY	Next FY
18a(1). Personnel Pmts to Non-Federal Members	\$2,600.00	\$2,050.00

<b>18a(2). Personnel Pmts to Federal Members</b>	\$4,000.00	\$4,000.00
<b>18a(3). Personnel Pmts to Federal Staff</b>	\$15,538.00	\$22,000.00
<b>18a(4). Personnel Pmts to Non-Member Consultants</b>	\$500.00	\$2,100.00
<b>18b(1). Travel and Per Diem to Non-Federal Members</b>	\$7,609.00	\$4,400.00
<b>18b(2). Travel and Per Diem to Federal Members</b>	\$3,803.00	\$4,000.00
<b>18b(3). Travel and Per Diem to Federal Staff</b>	\$0.00	\$3,000.00
<b>18b(4). Travel and Per Diem to Non-member Consultants</b>	\$1,427.00	\$4,400.00
<b>18c. Other(rents,user charges, graphics, printing, mail, etc.)</b>	\$1,579.00	\$2,000.00
<b>18d. Total</b>	\$37,056.00	\$47,950.00
<b>19. Federal Staff Support Years (FTE)</b>	0.11	0.14

#### **20a. How does the Committee accomplish its purpose?**

In FY 18, the Committee held two meetings to review the scientific merit of submissions and resubmissions for multi-center clinical studies and research activities; the first in December 2017 and the second in July 2018. The Committee reviewed 3 new studies, 1 resubmitted study and 1 mid-term review. The meetings involved discussion and written reviews of the scientific, clinical, methodological, ethical and logistical merits of proposed and active studies. In doing so, the committee helped advance the VA Strategic Goals by reviewing studies: that provide Veterans and their providers information to make more informed health care decisions to improve their care; that provide Veterans with access to innovative treatments related to their care; to ensure that clinical trials are conducted in a safe and effective manner to foster trust for participation; that can help Veterans receive more timely and integrated care; and that help modernize VA healthcare through cutting-edge clinical research.

#### **20b. How does the Committee balance its membership?**

The membership includes experts experienced in cooperative clinical trial methodology and conduct and represents major fields of clinical medicine, including: Cardiology, Psychiatry, Internal Medicine, Endocrinology, Gerontology, Biostatistics, and Epidemiology. A balanced membership is required for the wide variety of cooperative study proposals from VA clinicians in different medical specialty areas and to provide the necessary perspectives on the range of diseases that impact the Veteran population.

#### **20c. How frequent and relevant are the Committee Meetings?**

The Committee tries to meet two to three times a year to review new proposals submitted by VA clinicians as related to new medical problems to patient care in VA. It also reviews the progress of ongoing studies periodically. The Committee helps to safeguard VA patients rights and well being as well as scientific integrity of every study.

**20d. Why can't the advice or information this committee provides be obtained elsewhere?**

There is no committee in VA which is specifically selected on the basis of its multi-disciplinary makeup directly related to cooperative clinical research among the VA patient population.

**20e. Why is it necessary to close and/or partially closed committee meetings?**

The meetings are partially closed because of the confidential nature involving qualification of personnel conducting the studies, intellectual property and medical records of patients who were study subjects. The disclosure of this information would constitute a clearly unwarranted invasion of personal privacy. Additionally, premature disclosure of the Committee's recommendation would likely frustrate implementation of final proposed actions.

**21. Remarks**

N/A

**Designated Federal Officer**

Grant D Huang Director, Cooperative Studies Program

<b>Committee Members</b>	<b>Start</b>	<b>End</b>	<b>Occupation</b>	<b>Member Designation</b>
Alexander, John	05/04/2012	06/30/2020	Associate Professor of Medicine w/ Tenure, Duke University	Special Government Employee (SGE) Member
Clauw, Daniel	06/01/2015	06/30/2019	Professor of Anesthesiology, Medicine and Psychiatry, University of Michigan	Special Government Employee (SGE) Member
Cushman, William	05/04/2012	06/30/2020	Chief, Preventive Medicine Section, Memphis VAMC	Regular Government Employee (RGE) Member
Davis, Barry	06/01/2014	06/01/2018	Guy S. Parcel Chair in Public Health, University of Texas School of Public Health	Special Government Employee (SGE) Member
Florez, Hermes	06/01/2017	06/30/2020	Associate Clinical Director, Geriatric Research, Education and Clinical Center	Regular Government Employee (RGE) Member
Grady, Deborah	06/01/2014	06/01/2018	Professor in Residence, Department of Medicine, University of California, San Francisco	Special Government Employee (SGE) Member
Karrison, Theodore	06/01/2014	06/01/2018	Associate Professor, Department of Health Studies, University of Chicago	Special Government Employee (SGE) Member
Martin, Renee'	06/01/2014	06/01/2018	Assistant Professor, Public Health Sciences, Medical University of South Carolina	Special Government Employee (SGE) Member

**Number of Committee Members Listed: 8**

**Narrative Description**

The Committee reviews new proposals submitted by VA clinicians that are aimed at addressing key medical problems and patient care in VA. The Committee also helps to safeguard VA patients rights and well being as well as scientific integrity of every ongoing study.

**What are the most significant program outcomes associated with this committee?**

Checked if Applies

- |   |                                     |
|---|-------------------------------------|
| Improvements to health or safety                  | <input type="checkbox"/>            |
| Trust in government                               | <input type="checkbox"/>            |
| Major policy changes                              | <input type="checkbox"/>            |
| Advance in scientific research                    | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| Effective grant making                            | <input type="checkbox"/>            |
| Improved service delivery                         | <input type="checkbox"/>            |
| Increased customer satisfaction                   | <input type="checkbox"/>            |
| Implementation of laws or regulatory requirements | <input type="checkbox"/>            |
| Other   | <input type="checkbox"/>            |

**Outcome Comments**

NA

**What are the cost savings associated with this committee?**

Checked if Applies

- |                            |                                     |
|----------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| None                       | <input type="checkbox"/>            |
| Unable to Determine        | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| Under \$100,000            | <input type="checkbox"/>            |
| \$100,000 - \$500,000      | <input type="checkbox"/>            |
| \$500,001 - \$1,000,000    | <input type="checkbox"/>            |
| \$1,000,001 - \$5,000,000  | <input type="checkbox"/>            |
| \$5,000,001 - \$10,000,000 | <input type="checkbox"/>            |
| Over \$10,000,000          | <input type="checkbox"/>            |
| Cost Savings Other         | <input type="checkbox"/>            |

**Cost Savings Comments**

While research findings are aimed in part at helping with cost savings, there has not been a direct method for determining the impact of funded studies. Additionally, benefits gained include non-financial factors.

**What is the approximate Number of recommendations produced by this committee for the life of the committee?**

154

**Number of Recommendations Comments**

This is a total of recommendations for FY 2003 through FY 2018. Approximately 10

studies are reviewed each fiscal year and recommendations are made on each one.

**What is the approximate Percentage of these recommendations that have been or will be Fully implemented by the agency?**

100%

**% of Recommendations Fully Implemented Comments**

Decisions are made on all study proposals and implemented.

**What is the approximate Percentage of these recommendations that have been or will be Partially implemented by the agency?**

0%

**% of Recommendations Partially Implemented Comments**

Recommendations are all fully implemented, therefore, none are open for partial implementation.

**Does the agency provide the committee with feedback regarding actions taken to implement recommendations or advice offered?**

Yes ☒ No ☐ Not Applicable ☐

**Agency Feedback Comments**

Feedback is provided at subsequent meetings.

**What other actions has the agency taken as a result of the committee's advice or recommendation?**

Checked if Applies

Reorganized Priorities	<input type="checkbox"/>
Reallocated resources	<input type="checkbox"/>
Issued new regulation	<input type="checkbox"/>
Proposed legislation	<input type="checkbox"/>
Approved grants or other payments	<input type="checkbox"/>
Other	<input type="checkbox"/>

**Action Comments**

N/A

**Is the Committee engaged in the review of applications for grants?**

No

**Grant Review Comments**

VA does not have granting authority.

**How is access provided to the information for the Committee's documentation?**

Checked if Applies

Contact DFO	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Online Agency Web Site	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Online Committee Web Site	<input type="checkbox"/>
Online GSA FACA Web Site	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Publications	<input type="checkbox"/>
Other	<input type="checkbox"/>

**Access Comments**

N/A